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Witness Says He Aided In Mayflower 'Bugging'

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A witness who said he was once employed by the Central Intelligence Agency testified today in United States District Court that two or three private detectives on trial operated a listening device with him in connection with the Mayflower "bugging" case.

The defendants are Oliver W. Angelone, John W. Leon, and John J. Frank. They are accused of slipping into a private attorney's room, planting a transmitter, and operating a listening device in their own room.

Douglas P. Weaver, who said he was an economist, testified he was present in a room of the Mayflower with one of the detectives and former Police Inspector Joseph W. Shimon when the "photo-copying of some papers" was being done a "couple of weeks" before the bugging incident.

Sought Pipeline Franchise

The detectives are charged with illegally setting up a tiny transmitting device in March, 1962, in the Mayflower suite of attorney Malcolm T. Dungan. The lawyer, was in town representing the El Paso Natural Gas Co., before the Federal Power Commission. The firm was seeking a multi-million dollar pipeline franchise into California.

Mr. Weaver testified before the jury after Judge Edward A. Tamim signed an order compelling him to answer questions by Assistant United States Attorney Harold J. Sullivan. Accordingly, the witness now cannot be charged with any crime growing out of today's testimony, with the exception of the charge of perjury.

Mr. Weaver described his connection with the detectives as a "loose association" and said he signed in at the Mayflower as "D. P. Baxter" on

March 1, 1962. The room was close to the suite occupied by Mr. Dungan and the witness said he turned the key of his rented room over to Mr. Frank and Mr. Angelone.

Says He Saw 3 in Room

Later that day, he said, he saw the two detectives and Mr. Shimon in the room. He said Mr. Shimon was holding a transmitter in his hands.

Mr. Weaver said he was in the rented room on and off for five days. He said the voices he heard coming over the receiver appeared to be discussing "negotiations before an administrative agency."

He said he had received phone calls from Mr. Shimon during their five-day stay at the hotel and that their password for getting into their room was "Sweeney."

The economist, who said he sometimes left the hotel by the fire escape, talked of his being present with Mr. Shimon and Mr. Angelone when some photocopies of documents in another room of the hotel were being made two weeks before the alleged bugging incident. He did not elaborate.

Is Under Indictment

Mr. Shimon now is under indictment on a charge of conspiring to obstruct justice and causing the operation of a "bug" in connection with the Mayflower case. But he is not a defendant in this trial, now in its second day.

Mr. Dungan, who took the stand later in the day, confirmed that the transmitting device had been found under a coffee table in his suite.

After the discovery, he said he walked out of the suite and down the corridor to a point near the room the detectives allegedly rented. He said he could hear the voice of a guest in his suite coming out of "Room 639."

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